

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06

XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 GSA-01 INT-05

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R 131859Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9018

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN ETRD

SUBJECT: TIN -- CANDIDATES FOR EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

POSITION OF ITC

REF: A) KUALA LUMPUR 772

B) LOND MN A-916, MARCH 4, 1975

L. QUESTION MF EXECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL (ITC) HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF SPECULATION FOR SOME TIME IN LONDON (REF B); HOWEVER, THE PRESENT
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EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, HAROLD ALLEN OF AUSTRALIA, HAS

MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO RETIRE WHEN HIS PRESENT APPOINTMENT EXPIRES ON JUNE 30 WITH EXPIRATION OF THE 4TH AGREEMENT.

2. INDICATIOLS ARE THAT THE CONSUMERS WILL RALLY AROUND ALLEN'Q BID FOR A REAPPOINTMENT. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THIS YEAR'S CONSUMER GROUP VICE-CHAIRMAN, MICHAEL JOHNSON (UK), AND LAST YEAR'S KEITH BUCK (CANADA), BOTH STATED TO THE US OBSERVER, IN ALMOST IDENTICAL TERMS, THAT ALLEN SHOULD BE SUPPORTED, BECAUSE:

- A) HE HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE CHAIRMAN, EXPERIENCED IN TIN MATTERS;
- B) HE SHOULD NOT BE PENALIZED FOR DOING HIS DUTY IN REMOVING THE ITC BUFFER STOCK MANAGER AND HIS DEPUTY LAST MAY 19 WHEN THEY WERE IN VIOLATION OF THEIR CONTRACT-AL OBLIGATION TO THE ORGANIZATION; AND
- C) IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF THINGS HE WOULD HAVE BEEN REAPPOINTED WITHOUT QUESTION AS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN H UNDER THE 5TH AGREEMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH THE US OBSERVER HAS BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH THE MALAYSIAN-LONDON ITC REPRESENTATIVE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, AMBASSADOR LAI'S CANDIDACY HAS NOT BEEN MENTIONED.

4. AS REPORTED IN REF (B) AND PREVIOUS, ADNAN, AN INDONESIAN AND JAIME BUENO, HIS DEPUTY, A BOLIVIAN, WERE SUSPENDED LAST SPRING BY ALLEN, FOR TRADING IN METAL FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT IN VIOLATION OF THE TERMS OF THEIR AGREEMENT WITH THE ITC. NO ONE IN LONDON DOUBTS AMBASSADOR LAI'S QUALIFICATIONS AS A RESPECTED AND SKILLED DIPLOMAT, BUT HIS QUALIFICATIONS AS AN EXPERT IN TIN ARE SUQPECT AND THERE IS SOME SUSPICION THAT HIS CANDIDACY IN BEING PRESSED BY ASEAN COUNTRIES MOSTLY OUT OF REVENGE FOR ADNAN'S DISMISSAL.

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